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REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Wamsley rejected pending claims 1-13 as being unpatentable over a publication entitled "MPEG-4 Overview - (Dublin Version)" to *Koenen* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,996,558 to *Heun*. The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Wamsley's remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1-13 over *Koenen* in view of *Heun*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Koenen* and *Heun*. The Applicant asserts that the combination of *Koenen* and *Heun* fails to teach or suggest the following limitations of amended independent claims 1, 6, and 8-13:

1. "including (14, 20) a single length information (lf) field concerning respective lengths of the respective partitions in the coded data stream (WS1, WS2)" as recited in independent claim 1;
2. "the coded data stream further includes a single length information (lf) field concerning respective lengths of the respective partitions in the coded data stream", "reading (40) the length information (lf) field", and "channel decoding (31) the coded data stream (WS1, WS2) using the length information (lf) field to obtain a decoded data stream (S1, S2)" as recited in amended independent claim 6;
3. "means (14, 20) for including a single length information (lf) field concerning respective lengths of the respective partitions in the coded data stream (WS1, WS2)" as recited in amended independent claims 8 and 10;
4. "the coded data stream further including a single length information (lf) field concerning respective lengths of the respective partitions in the coded data stream", "means (40) for reading the length information field", and

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"means (31) for channel decoding the coded data stream (WS1, WS2) using the length information (lf) field to obtain a decoded data stream (S1, S2)" as recited in amended independent claims 9 and 11; and

5. "the coded data stream further comprising a single length information (lf) field concerning respective lengths of the respective partitions in the coded data stream" as recited in amended independent claims 12 and 13.

Specifically, Examiner Wamsley correctly recognized the failure of *Koenen* to teach or suggest the aforementioned limitations of amended independent claims 1, 6, and 8-13. Furthermore, as illustrated in FIG. 1, *Heun* discloses an error detection and recovery scheme that includes a partition head 25 for each partition body 31 of a data stream stored on a magnetic tape, and teaches away from a single partition head 25 for all of the partitions bodies 31 of the data stream.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 6 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Koenen* in view of *Heun* is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, dependent claims 2-5 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 2-5 are allowable over *Koenen* in view of *Heun* is therefore for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 1 being allowable over *Koenen* in view of *Heun*. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Koenen* in view of *Heun* is therefore requested.

Claim 7 depends from independent claim 6. Therefore, dependent claim 7 includes all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 7. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claim 7 is allowable over *Koenen* in view of *Heun* is therefore for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 6 being allowable over *Koenen* in view of *Heun*.

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Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Koenen* in view of *Heun* is therefore requested.

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OFFICIAL**SUMMARY**

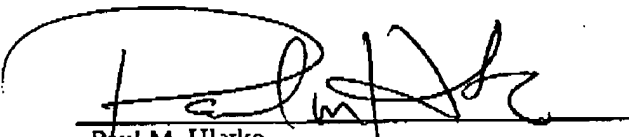
Examiner Wamsley's obviousness rejection of claims 1-13 has been obviated by the amendment of claims 1-13 herein. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-13 as amended herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Wamsley is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: **August 22, 2003**Respectfully submitted,
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